



# Tennessee News Release

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

## 2012 CROP PRODUCTION RESULTS NOW FINALIZED

**NASHVILLE, January 11, 2013** –It was a tough year for Tennessee farmers, especially for corn growers. The bright spots were the soybean and cotton crops that exceeded earlier expectations and finished with above average per acre yields. In fact, the average cotton yield for the state closely approached the record high set in 2006. Disappointment loomed all season for the prospects of a decent corn crop and final results indicate average output per acre worse than previously forecast. Dark tobacco types yielded respectable while Burley yields ended slightly below the 10-year average. Hay yields, thanks to late summer moisture, were about average. State Director Debra Kenerson noted, “Extremely dry, hot weather into early July just devastated the corn crop. After that point, the weather became more seasonal and rainfall was adequate in most areas the remainder of the crop season. Harvest conditions were excellent.” The final yield estimates for 2012 revealed the following: **Corn**, 85 bushels per acre, down 46 bushels from 2011’s yield of 131 bushels; **Cotton**, 934 pounds per acre, up 138 pounds from the previous year; **Soybeans**, 38 bushels per acre, up 6 bushels from 2011; **Burley tobacco**, 1,810 pounds per acre, up 200 pounds from a year earlier.

## COTTON YIELD SECOND HIGHEST ON RECORD

Tennessee’s cotton production was estimated at 730,000 bales, down 83,000 bales from 2011. The State’s final average yield averaged 934 pounds of lint per acre, up 138 pounds from the previous year and second only to 2006’s record yield of 945 pounds. Harvested area was 375,000 acres, down 115,000 acres from 2011. Timely, late summer and fall rains were vital to the cotton crop development. Production was down due to decreased acreage.

## 2012 CORN YIELD WORST SINCE THE DROUGHT OF 1993

Corn for grain production was estimated at 81.6 million bushels. The final yield, at 85 bushels per acre, was down 46 bushels from a year earlier and down 4 bushels from the final November forecast. This was the lowest yielding crop in almost twenty years. Conversely, growers planted 250,000 more acres in 2012, the most since 1961. Tennessee corn producers harvested 960,000 acres for grain, an increase of 225,000 acres over 2011. The 2012 corn drought resulted in producers abandoning about 35,000 acres. Also, acres harvested for silage increased to 45,000, in part due to some of the acreage intended for grain was cut for silage. The silage yield, at 12 tons per acre, was down 5 tons from the previous year. Silage production totaled 540,000 tons. Corn harvest was virtually complete by mid-October, about three weeks ahead of the normal pace.

## SOYBEAN PRODUCTION A BRIGHT SPOT IN 2012

Soybean production was estimated at 46.7 million bushels, up 16 percent from the previous year. The State’s final soybean yield was estimated at 38 bushels per acre, up 6 bushels from 2011. Producers harvested 1.23 million acres for beans, down 30,000 acres from the previous year. Excellent harvesting conditions allowed growers to gather the crop by mid-November. Soybean yields were better than average due to plentiful late summer and fall rain.

## HIGHEST BURLEY PRODUCTION SINCE 2006

Burley producers increased production to 29 million pounds, up 28 percent from 2011 and the highest since 2006. The State’s final burley yields averaged 1,810 pounds per acre, up 200 pounds from a year earlier. Growers harvested 16,000 acres, up 2,000 from the previous year. Tennessee’s dark fire-cured tobacco yields were estimated at 3,100 pounds per acre, up 210 pounds from 2011. Dark air-cured yields reached 2,650 pounds per acre, up 30 pounds from a year earlier. Burley tobacco yields improved over the past two seasons’ dismal ones, but were still less than expected in late summer. Scarce labor supplies challenged growers in some areas, causing harvest delays. Curing conditions to date have been acceptable.

## MOST WINTER WHEAT SEEDINGS SINCE 2008

Total winter wheat acreage for the 2013 season is estimated at the highest level since 2008 at 540,000 acres, up 120,000 acres from 2012. Mild autumn weather with adequate moisture across Tennessee allowed for timely seeding. Winter wheat seeding started in late September and continued at a normal pace through mid-November. Weather conditions during December, including above normal temperatures and near normal precipitation, have been beneficial for the winter wheat crop. As of the week ending November 18, virtually all of the state’s wheat acreage had been seeded with over two-thirds emerged. The crop is currently rated in good-to-excellent condition.

(OVER)

2012 HAY PRODUCTION DOWN SHARPLY DUE TO DECREASED ACREAGE

Hay production, at 3.55 million tons, was down 11 percent from the 2011 crop. Acreage, at 1.765 million acres, was down 115,000 acres from a year earlier. Hay yields averaged 2.01 tons per acre. Alfalfa production totaled 51,000 tons. Alfalfa producers harvested 15,000 acres down 5,000 from a year earlier. Alfalfa yields averaged 3.40 tons per acre, down 3 percent from the previous year. Growers seeded 2,000 acres of alfalfa during 2012, down 3,000 acres from 2011. Pastures and hay fields suffered from the combination of above average temperatures and severe drought during late spring and summer. Fall weather was moderate, with ample rainfall and cooler temperatures. This helped pastures and hay fields recover. As a result, some farmers were able to get a second cutting that had not been anticipated. Hay stocks on Tennessee farms totaled 2.7 million tons on December 1, 2012, down 13 percent from 2011. Stocks represented 76 percent of this year’s production, compared with 78 percent on December 1, 2011. Lower hay production in combination with early feeding resulted in decreased on-farm hay stocks as of December 1, 2012.

CROP ESTIMATES: TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES, 2012, WITH COMPARISONS							
Crop	Units	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
TENNESSEE							
Apples <sup>1</sup>	lb.	---	---	---	---	8,500	7,500
Corn for grain	bu.	735	960	131	85	96,285	81,600
Corn for silage	ton	38	45	17	12	646	540
Cotton <sup>2</sup>	lb.	490	375	796	934	813	730
Cottonseed	ton	---	---	---	---	272.0	243.0
Hay, All	ton	1,880	1,765	2.11	2.01	3,976	3,551
Other	ton	1,860	1,750	2.10	2.00	3,906	3,500
Alfalfa	ton	20	15	3.50	3.40	70	51
Soybeans	bu.	1,260	1,230	32.0	38.0	40,320	46,740
Tobacco, All	lb.	22.0	23.9	2,062	2,218	45,363	53,000
Dark fire-cured	lb.	6.9	6.9	2,890	3,100	19,941	21,390
Burley	lb.	14.0	16.0	1,610	1,810	22,540	28,960
Dark air-cured	lb.	1.1	1.0	2,620	2,650	2,882	2,650
Winter Wheat	bu.	310	340	69.0	63.0	21,390	21,420
UNITED STATES							
Apples <sup>1</sup>	lb.	---	---	---	---	9,429,900	
Corn for grain	bu.	83,989	87,375	147.2	123.4	12,359,612	10,780,296
Corn for silage	ton	5,935	7,379	18.4	15.4	109,094	113,450
Cotton <sup>2</sup>	lb.	9,460.9	9,426.8	790	866	15,573.2	17,009.9
Cottonseed	ton	---	---	---	---	5,370.0	5,759.0
Hay, All	ton	55,653	56,260	2.36	2.13	131,216	119,878
Other	ton	36,440	38,968	1.81	1.74	65,884	67,829
Alfalfa	bu.	19,213	17,292	3.40	3.01	65,332	52,049
Soybeans	lb.	73,776	76,104	41.9	39.6	3,093,524	3,014,998
Tobacco, All	lb.	325.0	336.2	1,841	2,268	598,252	762,441
Dark fire-cured	lb.	16.4	16.3	3,154	3,302	51,721	53,764
Burley	lb.	88.9	101.4	1,938	2,021	172,265	204,880
Dark air-cured	bu.	5.5	5.2	2,924	2,933	16,082	15,250
Winter Wheat	bu.	32,314	34,834	46.2	47.2	1,493,677	1,645,202

<sup>1</sup>Forecast.  
<sup>2</sup> Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton.